

Opening prayer: Loving God, we are grateful for the
Many good good appearances of Christmas. For
the time we are privileged to spend with
family and friends, for the joy of giving
and receiving gifts of love, for times of in-
spiration and closeness with you, we
offer you our thanks. Especially we are grate-
ful for your gift to us at Christmas:
the gift of your Son, and our Lord, Jesus
Christ.

We are grateful that we are coming to one
in prayer who is never too busy to for us, but
is always to listen, always willing to love us
and for give us, always able to give us what
we need. We do not deserve such gracious
care, but we need it, and we are grateful for
it. And, when we are at our best, we sense
that our best hope in life is reaching into the
storehouse of love and allowing you to give
us the gifts you want to give.

Father, we are grateful for the way you have
already blessed our lives. You have called
us into being and have given us a good world
in which to live. You have touched us by the
the caring concern of families and friends. You
have ministered to us through your Church. You
have guided us when we were confused, forgiven
us when we were failing, comforted us when we
were hurting, come to us when we were alone
strengthened us when we were faltering, and
again, loved us into new life.

Use this service now to do something good for
us and to prepare us for service to others.

Opening prayer: O God, who makest us glad
with the yearly remembrance of the birth
of your son, Jesus Christ, grant that just
as we joyfully receive him as our
Redeemer, so also may we with sure
confidence behold him when he cometh
to be our judge, who liveth and reigneth
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
world without end. Amen

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